

## **CHAPTER 3**

### **METHODS OF THE STUDY**

This chapter discusses the way the study is conducted. It also deals with the research method, research procedure, research subject, and techniques of data collection and data analysis. They are presented in the following.

#### **3.1 Method of Research**

The study employs a case study that is conducted through a comparative textual analysis on two short stories. A case study is “a method involving systematically gathering enough information about a particular person, social setting, event, or group to permit the researcher to effectively understand how the subject operates or functions” (Berg, 2007: 283). A case study is selected for this study due to some reasons, besides of its ability to give an in-depth understanding of a particular phenomenon or event due to its focus on one single phenomenon or jus a few of phenomena, case study is also theory-grounded in nature, meaning that the theory building from case study is likely to produce theory. Furthermore, because of the close connection between theory and data, it is likely that the theory can be further tested and expanded by subsequent studies (Berg, 2007: 285, 286).

The case study design employed in this study is the comparative case study. “A comparative case study is a set of multiple case studies of multiple research entities for the purpose of cross-unit comparison. Both qualitative and

quantitative comparisons are generally made.” (Jensen and Rodgers: 2001, pp. 237-239 as cited in Berg, 2002, p. 293).

Further, Berg (2006: 285-296) cites some benefits and strengths of case studies as follow:

- a. In terms of generating theory (grounded theory), the theory emerged from case studies is likely to produce theory and be testable with the already measured conceptions and hypothesis that can be proven false. Further, the theory resulted is likely to be empirically valid.
- b. Scientifically, the benefit of the case study methods is in its ability to open the way for discoveries (Shaughnessy & Zechmeister, 1999).
- c. Case study methods are equal in terms of objectivity with other methods. It is so because case studies require that the researchers clearly articulate what areas have been investigated and through what means so that the repeatability of the results can be tested by subsequent research.
- d. Undertaken properly, case studies will not only fit certain individual or situation or event but also provide general understanding about similar individuals, situations and events.

There are eight stories that will be compared in this study. The eight short stories have the same theme, which is the positioning of Indonesian wives in relation to their husbands. The type of comparison made is the qualitative comparisons. In addition, according to Sugihastuti and Suharto (2002), the empiric data analyzed by using the feminist perspective can be both qualitative

and quantitative in nature. For the purpose of this study, it is better to explain the meaning of qualitative data. Still according to Sugihastuti and Suharto (2002), the qualitative data are descriptive in nature, meaning that the data describe the status and the role of women characters in the context of family, society, and work life. The analysis of the data can be done first, through a comparative study. This study is attempting to compare and to look for similarities and differences in terms of femininity in the literary works by male and female authors.

The theories used to analyze the content of the eight short stories are feminist theory constructed by Myra Jehlen (as cited in Moi, 1985) who argues the case for 'radical comparativism' (585) in feminist studies as a whole. Radical comparatives basically is an attempt to bring back feminist analysis to the ones first introduced by Kate Millet and Mary Ellmann, who focused on male writings, but at the same time takes a step further by doing a direct comparison between male and female writings.

### **3.2 The Stages of the Research**

In conducting the research, the following stages were taken:

- a. Determining the subjects of the research that are eight Indonesian short stories by the twentieth centuries Indonesia's men and women writers;
- b. Deciding the main issue of the research;
- c. Formulating research questions;
- d. Reviewing the literature;

- e. Undertaking library research by searching out, collecting and comprehending the references related to the research questions;
- f. Reading repeatedly and thoroughly the whole parts of the short stories in order to arrive at a comprehensive understanding;
- g. Taking notes of textual evidences;
- h. Analyzing the intrinsic elements of the short stories which focus on theme, character and characterization, and the language;
- i. Analyzing the data related to feminist literary criticism and feminism issue;
- j. Considering the meaning of the findings;
- k. Drawing conclusions and giving suggestions

### 3.3 The Context of the Research

The subjects of this study are four short stories by female and male Indonesian authors; they are “*Suami Ibu, Suami Saya*” (*My Mom’s Husband is Mine*) by Djenar Maesa Ayu, *Rumah Duka* (*The Resting Place*) by Ratih Kumala, *Kaktus pada Kamera Suamiku* (*The Cactus in My Husband’s Camera*) by Sri Ruwanti, *Pertemuan di Taman Hening* (*The Meeting in a Quiet Park*) by Helvy Tiana Rosa and the rest four short stories by male authors are “*Ayah Saya Suami Saya*” (*My Father is My Husband*) by Alimuddin, “*Bercinta dengan Barbie*” (*Making Love with Barbie*) by Eka Kurniawan, “*Hanya untuk Satu Nama*” (*Just for One Name*) by Isbedy Stiawan ZS, and “*Max*” by Seno Gumira Ajidarma.

### **3.4 Technique of Data Collection**

The data for this study is taken from the textual evidences found in both of the texts. To arrive at this, the writer uses close reading strategy in which the texts are read thoroughly and carefully for an in-depth analysis. The events that are related to the portrayal of wives, particularly the way the wives position themselves as related to their husbands are chosen. These events will then be classified and assessed in relation to the study. The short stories as the documents of this study are the main sources from which the data for answering the proposed questioned will be derived.

### **3.5 Technique of Data Analysis**

In analyzing the data, the writer will frame the analysis on one part of feminist literary criticism, which is radical comparativism. Basically radical comparativism attempts to see how male domination is portrayed in both writings by women and men.

The first things that will be analyzed are the themes and characters of both of the short stories. This analysis of the two elements are employed to gain the valid information about the short stories, to arrive at the comprehensive understanding of the stories are about. Then, the writer will focus on the way both of the authors portray Indonesian wives in positioning themselves in relation to their husbands.

After analyzing all the textual evidences collected from all of the short stories, the writer will compare the evidences to find whether there are differences

or similarities in terms of the portrayal of Indonesian wives and the coping strategies employed by the wives. Finally, the writer will analyze those findings based on the view of feminist literary criticism.

